

Administration has zero tolerance policy against drug peddling: DC Pulwama

Excelsior Correspondent
PULWAMA, Feb 4: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary on Saturday convened a meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD). At the outset, the DC discussed various issues related to menace of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug peddling, abuse, besides, cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district. He emphasised on conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs. The Education Department was asked to promote anti drug abuse awareness in all educational institutions and its ill effects on society. The DC directed CEO to ensure that no tobacco product is sold near educational institutions as per rules. The DC directed all concerned officers for immediate completion of mapping of land

used for bhong and poppy cultivation. He also directed CAO and CHO to explore avenues for growing alternative crops in these areas besides providing valuable inputs to land owners. He asked officers of all line departments to make coordinated efforts to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain besides taking stringent action against the persons involved in this dangerous trade. Choudhary said, in order to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged rehabilitation, counseling and guidance policy is being implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace. He sought cooperation from the religious heads, families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes. The DC assured the departments that all requisite support will be provided by the District Administration for saving youth from the ill effects of the drugs. The DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Pulwama and

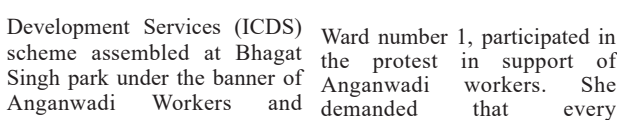
CMO Pulwama to get CCTV cameras installed at all medical shops, clinical establishments and chemist/druggist shops which lie within the limits of schools, colleges, hospitals and masjids so that overall surveillance with regard to the containment of drug sales is enforced. He also directed the Assistant Drug Controller to establish a 24*7 flying squad to check the unauthorized functioning of Chemists besides checking the sales of contraband drugs in the district. The Police Department was asked to keep strict vigil against drug proliferation, consumption and intensifying awareness against such addictive substances involving concerned stakeholders from civil administration.

Anganwadi workers, Helpers protest for pensionary benefits

Excelsior Correspondent
UDHAMPUR, Feb 4: Anganwadi workers and Helpers today staged a strong protest demonstration demanding pensionary benefits for them after retirement from the service. A number of Anganwadi workers and helpers working under Integrated Child

Development Services (ICDS) scheme assembled at Bhagat Singh park under the banner of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers' Union (AWHU) and held a protest. Holding banners and placards in their hands, they raised slogans against the Government and in support of their demands. They said that there should be no retirement of ICDS workers till retirement benefits including gratuity of Rs 4 lakh per worker and monthly pension

of Rs 5 lakh and Rs 3 lakh, respectively on or before their disengagement. She further demanded an old age pension of Rs 3000 per month for workers and helpers on attaining age of 60 years on the analogy of BPL old age women. Ward number 1, participated in the protest in support of Anganwadi workers. She demanded that every Anganwadi worker and Helper who has attained the age of 60 years be given a lump sum amount of Rs 5 lakh and Rs 3 lakh, respectively on or before their disengagement. She further demanded an old age pension of Rs 3000 per month for workers and helpers on attaining age of 60 years on the analogy of BPL old age women.



Anganwadi Workers & Helpers protesting at Udhampur on Saturday.

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GMC's Dr Salim Khan conferred as IAPSM fellow at ICMR-NIN Hyderabad

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Feb 4: Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, who is heading the Department of Community Medicine (SPM) of

low of the foundation for the advancement of international medical education and research (FAIMER). He is also a member of over two dozen national and interna-

tional professional associations and societies, including various committees constituted by the government. During the IAPSMCON Hyderabad, Dr Khan, who was also a member of the National Organising Committee, chaired the inaugural plenary session on neglected tropical diseases. He was also elected as a member of the National Governing Council of IAPSM representing the North Zone during 2023-24. During the valedictory of IAPSMCON 2023, the delegation team of GMC Srinagar was felicitated with a special award for the highest number of delegates from any institution in the country. The fifteen delegates from GMC Srinagar presented their research work through oral and poster presentations. During the general body meeting of the IAPSM conference, GMC Srinagar was selected to hold the Annual National Conference of IAPSM in 2025.

Large number of people participate in Maha Yagnya

Excelsior Correspondent
KATHUA, Feb 4: A large number of people including women participated in three - days holy Yagnya performed by Swami Ram Swaroop Yogacharya here for maintaining the word peace and prosperity of the people. The holy Yagnya was organized by Ex Minister, Rajiv Jasrotia in which large number of people drawn from all walk

of the society participated and performed the puja and recitation of the holy mantras. The Swami Ramsaroop Yogacharya enlightened the masses with religious discourses to root out the social evils, destruction, violence, social and religious differences and bad forces from the world after following the Veda way of life. He said the holy Yagnyas which are also eco friendly purify the environment.

BJP holds district Working Committees meetings

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir conducted day-long Working Committee meetings (Naryekarni) of district Jammu North, Jammu border, Reasi, Kishtwar, Basohli and Shopian. J&K BJP general secretary (Org.), Ashok Koul chiefly addressed the Working Committee meeting of Kishtwar held at Kishtwar. District President Chuni Lal Shan and other party leaders including Ravi Kumar Thakur also addressed the meeting. Former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, BJP secretary Arvind Gupta, district President Reasi Rohit Dubey and other leaders addressed the Working Committee meeting of district Reasi.

HC quashes 3 PSAs, directs release of detainees

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Feb 4: High Court has quashed three detention orders passed under Public Safety Act and directed the authorities to release them. The court has quashed detention orders of Waheed Ahmad Khanday of Langate, Jaffar Rasheed Dar of Yaripora and Saliq Parvaiz Bhat of Gagren with the direction to the jail authorities to release them from the preventive custody if not required in any other case. They were detained on 19.10.2021, 30.10.2021 and 28.01.2022 by the District Magistrates of Kupwara, Kulgam and Shopian citing their detention had been passed in order to prevent them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State. Court has observed that it is interesting to note that no FIR has been shown to have been registered against the petitioner-Khanday, at least the detention record depicts so and when this is the position, then where from 06 leaves comprising copies of FIR and statements of witnesses

Committee meeting of BJP district Jammu North was held at Roop Nagar. The meeting was chaired by former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, state general secretary, Sunil Sharma, senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana, chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Jammu, Bharat Bhushan, Omi Khajuria, president Jammu district North and other party leaders. Working Committee meeting of Jammu border district was addressed by its president Sunil Shastri and other party leaders. Working Committee meeting of Basohli district was addressed by its president Darshan Singh Thakkar and other party leaders. Working Committee meeting of Shopian district was addressed by party spokesperson, Altaf Thakur, district president and other party leaders. Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting said that the working Committee meetings intend to take the message from the top hierarchy of the party to the ground level. He said that this meeting prepare us to strengthen the organizational structure of the party. He said that this is particularly important in view of the upcoming elections in Jammu & Kashmir. He also shared the details of the forthcoming party programmes.

Other senior BJP leaders addressed in their respective working committee meetings. They impressed upon the party workers to display to maintain perfect coordination between the District Development Committee members, the Block Development Council members, the Panchs and Sarpanchs while serving the people. Asserting that only BJP is capable of ensure the proper redressal to pressing problems of the people, BJP leaders asked the workers to reach out to the still untouched sections of the society and have direct connectivity with the people. **Kavinder, Rahul kick-start construction works of lanes, drains in Ward 20** **Excelsior Correspondent** JAMMU, Feb 4: Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader along with Rahul Kumar, Councillor Ward No 20 kick-started development work of lanes and drains at Valmiki Colony, Gandhi Nagar here, today. The development work estimated to be completed at a cost about Rs. 32 lakh. Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta said that the Government at the Centre is

Neeraj appointed as BJP convener of Industry Cell

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 4: BJP appointed Neeraj Anand as convener of Industry Cell J&K.

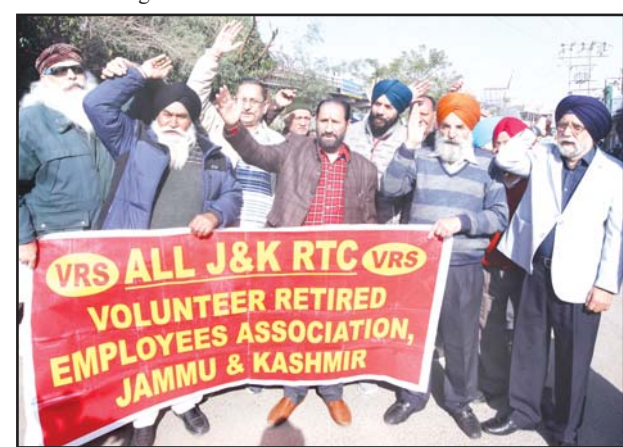
Many leaders of Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF) gathered at CTF Channi Office and congratulated Anand. Praveen Gupta, CTF patron



Dignitaries of CTF and others posing for a group photograph after celebrating appointment of Neeraj Anand as BJP convener of Industry Cell J&K.

Anand expressed gratitude to BJP State president, Ravinder Raina and secretary (Org), Ashok Koul for posing faith in him. "We all shall work in tandem to make J&K a successful industrial State and contribute proudly in nation building exercise," he said. Prominent trade and industry leaders have expressed satisfaction over the decision taken by BJP in this regard.

asked ANAND to put all his might in resolving issues related to industry and trade growth in J&K. Prominent among those present on the occasion were Raman Gupta, Shiv Kr Gupta, Pooja Kapoor, Atul Ghai, Nitin Jain, Davinder Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Abhinav Anand, Ajay Gupta, Parag Abrol, Rahul Sharma, Manohar Lal, Romesh Khajuria and others.



SRTC Voluntarily Retired Employees raising slogans during a protest at Jammu on Saturday.

SRTC Voluntarily Retd Employees raise demands

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 4: All J&K SRTC Voluntarily Retired Employees Association here today staged a protest demonstration and raised demands. The protest was led by Dev Raj Bali, Association president. The protesters were raising demands of COLA arrears from 1999 to December 31, 2005 and arrears of 6th pay commission from January 1, 2006 to March 2012. Their other demands were release of DA arrears from April 2012 to March 2021- total amount of which comes out to be Rs. 66,24,21,998 for

paying focused attention to Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to ensure welfare and prosperity of the people of this region. He said the Union Government is paying focused attention towards Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and is determined to carry out developmental activities in every nook and corner of this sensitive region. He said that the Government stands fully committed to ensure the prosperity and welfare of the people especially the underprivileged sections of the society by providing the requisite infrastructure in all the areas. He asserted that BJP has already

SMVDU Faculty delivers talk at CSIR Chennai

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 4: In online advanced course on Geopolymer Concrete (GCEON-2023) held at CSIR- Structural Engineering Research Centre, CSIR Campus, Chennai, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Faculty, School of Civil

Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, delivered an invited lecture on "Geopolymer Concrete Utilizing Industrial Waste and Recycled Aggregates for Environmental Friendly Construction". Dr. Jindal discussed the effects of ever-increasing population which results in increased demand for infrastructure devel-

opment and impacts the manufacturing of cement at a gigantic scale. The issue and concern of global warming due to the increased greenhouse gases in the environment because of cement manufacturing process was shared with researchers across India. Dr. Jindal also emphasized on issue of various agricultural and industrial waste materials and demolition wastes and their utilization in the development of Geopolymer Concrete which is expected to replace conventional cement concrete in the future. The lecture was well-received by participants and research aspirants. Research scholars and budding civil engineers were made aware of the significance and scope of research in geopolymer concrete.

Brahman Mahamandal, others appeal to KPs

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 4: Brahman Mahamandal Kashmir and representatives of various organizations today appealed the Kashmiri Pandits to take full spiritual advantage of the auspicious Har Ratri as mentioned in Dharma Shastras and perform the holy Puja on February 17 as Triodashi starts at 11-38 pm on that day which is much before the entry of midnight. At a press conference here, today, president Brahman Maha Mandal, Kashmir, U K Handoo, Sanjay Raina a religious scholar, Kundan Lal secretary, Mata Khirbhawani Yatra Welfare Society, Rohit Kaul, president, Shree Ardh Ratre Maha Ragneya Sewa Sanstha, Pinto Ji, president, Global Solace, B L Jalali, president, Rainawari KP Action Committee, Surinder Dhar, Executive Member, Shiv Shakti Mandir Sanstha, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, M K Yogi, president Kashmiri Migrant Democratic Front, Anil Bhan, president, Hands for Humanity, Ranjit Gorkha, president, Shree Shree Sharika Chakrshwari Sanstha, Hari

World Cancer Day observed by educational, health institutions

***OPD services inaugurated in SCI**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: World Cancer Day was observed today by various health as well as educational institutions across Jammu region with the theme 'Close the Care Gap' which is about understanding the inequities in cancer care and taking actions to make necessary progress to address them. To mark the occasion, Secretary Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department Bhopinder Kumar today inaugurated OPD services in the much-awaited State Cancer Institute (SCI) at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu. This was the first step to kick start cancer services in State Cancer Institute and soon will be followed by other services like day care services, in door services and installation of latest machinery to treat cancer. Thereafter, one-day CME was organized by Oncology Department. Dr Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal GMC Jammu presented an over view of State Cancer Institute. She elaborated the services that will be made available to the public in State Cancer Institute. Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Head Oncology and organizing chairman presented the vision of State Cancer Institute from its inception to present day when it has started its functioning. A special mention of Preventive Oncology services was made by all speakers so that people can diagnose cancers at early stage for successful treatment. Administrator GMC Jammu and Dr Jitender Mehta (Nodal Officer SCI) were present on the occasion. Dr Deepak Kumar (Deputy MS, SCI) also spoke on the occasion. To observe the Day, a national level online quiz was organized by Department of Botany, Government Degree College (Boys) Kathua. Prof Ram



Secretary H&ME Department Bhopinder Kumar flagging off cancer awareness walk from SCI Jammu on Saturday.

Krishan while giving details of quiz said that response of students was overwhelming, as large number of students of different colleges of J&K, Ladakh, Punjab, UP, Haryana and other states took part in the quiz. From J&K, about 250 students from different colleges participated. Government Degree College (GDC) Khour conducted a cancer awareness lecture for the students of the College. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Arun Sharma educated the students about main causes and symptoms of cancer like unusual lumps or swelling, persistent coughing, breathlessness or difficulty in swallowing, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, and persistent indigestion. NSS unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organized an essay writing competition with the aim to reduce the misconception and myths about cancer and to help people in getting the right information at the right time. In the competition, students of the College participated with great zeal and dissipated vital information about cancer. World Cancer Day was also observed at Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing, Jammu. To mark the occasion, students of RGCN presented a captivating bonanza of items which included poster making competition, quiz, powerpoint presentations and speeches focusing on spreading awareness for Cancer

Day. In Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar (Jammu), a seminar on 'Overview of World Cancer Day' was organized. The theme of the World Cancer Day 'Close the Care Gap' was explained by Dr Parveen Yograj, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital. A poster making competition was also organized for the students of ANMT School, Gandhi Nagar (Jammu). To mark the occasion, Cancer OPD was started at Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital, Amphalla (Jammu) by renowned Breast Cancer Specialist Dr Surbhi Kudyar, in presence of president of the Mission Anil Gupta, other office bearers and Administrator of the Hospital Dr Romesh Gupta, who informed that Dr Kudyar will render her services in OPD of the Hospital on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Jeevan Sangharsh Trust (NGO) observed World Cancer Day by adopting two cancer patients Sunita Devi and Biro Devi. Jeevan Sangharsh Trust has been working in the cancer sector by organizing cancer awareness campaign in J&K. Members discussed over the subject elaborately and chalked out strategy for next follow up for cancer care cases. Chairperson Rajni Sharma and general secretary Manvi Sharma were present on the occasion.



JKEDI Director Ajaz Ahmad Bhat inspecting an office in Shopian.

JKEDI Director reviews working of Shopian, Pulwama offices

Excelsior Correspondent
PULWAMA, Feb 4: Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), today inspected district offices of Shopian and Pulwama and chaired a review meeting of the officers.

reaching out to the educated youth and encourage them to take up entrepreneurship as their career. "Our efforts must be stepped up and we must reach out to as many people as possible. Government schemes must reach every corner of the UT. Counselling and guidance are very significant and our policies must help youth to explore their full potential," said Director, JKEDI. He also instructed the officers to take stern action against wilful defaulters under various schemes implemented by the Institute.

During the meeting, the functioning of the district offices, the status of ongoing public outreach programs, and progress made under recovery and repayment of the districts were reviewed. The Director exhorted upon the District Nodal Officers to double their efforts in

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Representatives of various KP organizations at a press conference at Jammu on Saturday.